

A NEW AXIOCERSES FROM WEST AFRICA  
(LEPIDOPTERA, LYCÆNIDÆ)

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A small collection of Liberian Lycænida sent me contained a female of a new subspecies of *Axiocerses harpax* Fabricius.<sup>1</sup> The specimen has been deposited in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

*Axiocerses harpax piscatoris*, new subspecies

UPPERSIDE:

*Female.* Fore wing brownish black with a fulvous glint in certain lights. Two bars of bright orange, one discal and one post-discal, cross the wing, the former from  $M_1$ , just beyond the cell-end, to  $Cu_2$ , and the latter from  $M_1$  to 2A. Both are roughly parallel to the outer margin, a little over 1 mm. apart from each other, and the latter about 2 mm. from the outer margin. Veins narrowly black where they cross these bands. Hind wing orange, with the costa to  $M_1$ , the entire cell, the inner margin, and the basal half of the space between the lower discocellular and 2A black. Parallel with the outer margin are two central lines of black, the inner one (just beyond the cell-end) the heavier, and the outer one thinner and somewhat obsolescent. Basal to the inner one the small amount of orange appears more as a suffusion than as a definite region of color. Veins between the two lines and faintly marginal to the outer one are black pencilled. On the outer margin is a very narrow black line. Anal lobe marked with metallic. Fringe of both wings gray. (Presumably this subspecies has a tail as in the typical subspecies. This region is nicked in the only specimen available, however, and therefore none is present.)

UNDERSIDE:

*Female.* Fore wing pale orange-brown with a reddish tint, towards inner margin becoming nearly pure orange, and ultimately (outward of 2A) gray. Cell crossed by three metallic bars, each surrounded by black; one in the base, one in the center, and one across the cell-end. Below the last, in the base of the  $Cu_1$ - $Cu_2$  interspace is a spot of similar metallic, similarly surrounded with black (most heavily basad and marginad). A discal row of five spots, connected, but slightly dislocated, crosses the wing from  $M_1$  to 2A, all but the last ( $Cu_2$ -2A) being similar in type to the foregoing. In this last one the metallic center is replaced by gray. A submarginal row of small spots proceeds from apex to inner angle; the apical spot is displaced marginad and

<sup>1</sup> 1775, Syst. Ent. App. p. 829.

is just at the apex; the remaining are parallel to the outer margin, and all but the last two consist of fine metallic points with black circumscriptions. On the apical one the black is so minute as to be hardly noticeable. The base of the  $Cu_2-2A$  interspace adjoining the cell is black. On the costal margin, commencing one-third out from the base, is a row of fine spots, small, but similar in construction to the majority on that wing. They proceed marginad on the costa for about one-third its length. *Hind wing* with ground color brownish red. Basal half of wing strewn with metallic spots, each ringed with black, as follows: one in the base of the cell, one in the center, and two closing the end; two on the costa (one at the center and one near the base); two on the inner margin (one at the base and one just basad of the center); one at the base between the lower  $Sc$  and  $2A$ ; one one-third out in this same interspace; one below the lower cell-end; one in the  $Cu_1-Cu_2$  interspace; a discal row of them running from the costa to the inner margin, the costal displaced outwardly. The  $M_1-M_2$ ;  $M_3-Cu_1$ , and those in  $Cu_2$ -inner margin (all run into an elongate bar) all displaced inwardly. On the inner margin, two-thirds out, is a long bar of metallic scales bordered with black that starts on the inner margin and curves evenly and shallowly outward along the margin. A submarginal dark, broad, hazy line crosses the wing, at the apex and in the  $Cu_1-Cu_2-2A$  interspaces dully bordered outwardly with metallic. Anal lobe also marked with metallic.

Length of fore wing, female, 13 mm.

Holotype, female, Fisherman's Lake, Liberia, May 20 (W. D. Thomas), M. C. Z. no. 26158.

Remarks. Differs (in the female) from eastern and southern *harpax* in the great amount of black, particularly in the base, above, on both wings. In the typical subspecies this surface is largely orange, while in *piscatoris* it is predominately black-brown, with the remaining orange darker than in the typical. Below the metallic spots are larger, the ground color (especially on the hind wing) darker and ruddier.

Comparisons have been made with females from the following localities: Kilossa, Tanganyika Territory; Rabai, Kenya Colony; Zanzibar; Victoria Falls, Rhodesia; Natal; Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. These are all in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, and all, apparently, represent typical *harpax*.